Fruits and Vegetables and Processed Foods, and Marine products were discussed. In addition, various bottlenecks in Increasing exports of some of the items including transportation bottlenecks were discussed and the States were advised to identify nodal agencies to deal with matters relating to agriculture exports.

(c) Most of the State Governments have already identified a nodal agency to deal with matters relating to agricultural exports. Some of the States have set-up necessary infrastructure such as Export Promotion Councils or Corporations to assist exporters and even directly undertake exports. Besides generation of exportable surplus, the State Governments have also been attempting to 6treamline market linkages through cooperatives with a view to promoting exports. Orissa has set up a directorate of export promotion and marketing. Orissa has also established *new* tea plantations recently in the notMraditinal areas.

Export of *Iron* Ore to Japan and South Korea

2965. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron ore exports to Japan and South Korea has suffered a serious set back because of the frequent breakdown of handling facilities at Vizag port and that Japan proposes to opt out of the contract in view of the uncertain and unstable supply of iron ore;

(b) if so, what i_s the extent of backlog in the shipment of iron ore to these countries till date; and

(c) what are the major causes for the frequent breakdown in handling facilities at Vizag port and what measures have been taken by Government improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN)-:

(a) Iron ore exports to Japan particularly have suffered a setback because of frequent breakdown in handling facilities at Vizag. Japanese Steel Mills have expressed their dissatisfaction about the Iron ore export through Vizag port during this year.

(b) During the period April-November, 1P85, 34.57 lakhs tonnes cf iron has been shipped, including 3.39 Iakh tonnes pertaining to last year's contract. Excluding this on prorata basis there is a short-fall of nearly 16 $lakh_s$ tonnes mostly to Japan.

(c) The shortfall has been primarily due to wearing out of old equipment like wagon tipplers and conveyor belt at the port. All efforts are being made to improve exports. Two too old tipplers are being replaced, pending which essential repairs have been carried out and both these tipplers are now working satisfactorily. A protion of the conveyor belt has also been replaced. The performance of the port in November has shown som improvement.

Tea and Coffee cultivation j„ Orissa

2966. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to bring more areas under tea and coffee plantation in Orissa; and

(b> what are the names of the $area_s$ i^n different districts in Orissa where tea and coffee plantation has started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN),:' (a) and (b) Coffee Board and Tea Board are undertaking various developmental and extension activities besides providing loan and subsidy for encouraging new plantations. An office of the Senior Liaison Officer of Coffee Board i_s located at Koraput and an Extension Centre is located at Jaypore to provide technical guider and Advisory support to the coffee holdings in Orissa. A joint venture